for a similar measure to secure the object in view, before it became too late. He also presented a memorial on the subject signed by 51 Members of the Assembly.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. Hardships on account of the high rate of tharavila and assessment on puthuval and poramboke lands in the taluk.

Mr. Sankaran Krishnan (Member, Nedumangad taluk) observed that the applications for waste lands in the taluk were either from the wealthy foreigners or from the half-starved poor ryots of the State. He would confine his attention to the latter. The bulk of the lands in the taluk had already been registered during and after the settlement without any *tharavila* and for a nominal assessment of one fanam per acre. The lands that remained were very inferior in quality, fit only for tapioca cultivation and the like. They were not suitable even for cocoanut cultivation. On such lands the Government had, by their recent orders, been raising the *tharavila* and assessment. The *tharavila* was first raised to 1 Re. and later on to Rs. 3 per acre, and the assessment to 5 fanams per acre. By a still later G. O., even those rates were further raised to Rs. 15 and rupee one per acre respectively. The reason alleged was that such a course was rendered necessary by the large expenditure on the re-survey of the taluk. The Member observed that the re-survey was necessitated by the want of proper supervision at the original survey, and he contended that the negligence of the Government officials could not be rightly charged to the poor ryots. Quite recently, the Dewan Peishkar was demanding a *tharavila* of Rs. 25 per acre on some lands in the taluk. The result of it all was that the poor landless ryots had to give up all hopes of getting any land. He therefore requested that the lands in the taluk should be registered to the poor, charging a *tharavila* of one or two rupees per acre and an assessment of one fanam per acre. In the long run, the Government could get an assessment of 50 fanams per acre from the same land, when they were planted up.

Mr. Gangadharan Ramavarman Thirumulpad (Member, Sherthallai taluk) observed that, for the *kayal* and canal reclamations and other waste lands, *tharavila* ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,000 per acre was being recovered. He then referred to the several G. O's. issued raising the *tharavila* for reclamations and ordinary waste lands, and pointed out that it was probably in the free exercise of the *discretion* vested in the Peishkars of fixing the *tharavila* at rates higher than the minimum that such oppressive amounts came to be realised. He said that the cost of reclamation was very heavy and that the nature of the waste lands in the taluk was sandy. He therefore prayed that *tharavila* should be fixed at Rs. 3 per acre for ordinary *puthuvals* and at Rs. 15 per acre for the *kayal* reclamations.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Changanacherri taluk) said that formerly no *tharavila* was levied in the State for the registry of lands. Dewan Sir. T. Madhava Rao started a *tharavila* of one rupee per acre and that had been in force for forty years. The people never felt it as a burden. During the last seven years, the *tharavila* had been raised from time to time. A *tharavila* of Rs. 25 per acre was at first fixed for *kayal* reclamations; that was then reduced to Rs. 15 per acre; but when the time for registry came, it was raised to Rs. 30 per acre. In many places, a *tharavila* of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 per cent and even more was being recovered according to the whims and caprices of the lower officers. All that was due to the fixing of *minimum* rates and leaving a vague discretion with the officers. Under such circumstances, the ryots of the country drew back and the lands were speedily passing into the hands of foreigners. The officers of Government were also partial to the latter. If the policy were continued for some time longer, he felt sure that the Europeans and other non-Travancoreans would become the landed proprietors, and the subjects of the State their dependants. For the above reasons, he requested that a light and uniform *tharavila* be fixed for the several kinds of land and made applicable throughout the State.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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